

FILE ONLY

# CIA's No. 2 Man Says Russia Supports Terrorism

*By Marc Sandalow*

**The deputy director of the CIA said last night that the Soviet Union is using international terrorism as a weapon in an undeclared war against Western influence and democratic values.**

Speaking before the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, CIA Deputy Director Robert M. Gates said that as defenders of human rights "we cannot close our eyes to the ... pervasively destructive role of the Soviet Union and its clients."

"Let there be no mistake or ambiguity about it: the Soviet Union supports terrorism," Gates said.

"Nearly every terrorist group

in the Middle East, and many others elsewhere, has links to the U.S.S.R. or one of its clients."

Gates, the second-highest official in the CIA, declined to comment on yesterday's disclosure that up to \$30 million in Iranian arms payments to the United States was diverted to the U.S.-backed rebels in Nicaragua, but he defended the Reagan administration's attempts to establish ties with moderate forces in Iran.

"I think it is a fact that there were — and are — serious factional struggles in Iran, and I think that the strategic initiative of the administration made sense and (its goals) were potentially attainable," he said.

Noting that the Russians have tried to increase their own influence in Iran, Gates said said the opportunity to begin discussions with certain factions in Iran "was an opportunity that in my view the United States should not have foregone."

Through the use of terrorism and military aid, Gates said the Russians have "incited violence and disorder and sponsored subversion of neutral or pro-Western governments" in many countries, including El Salvador, Honduras, South Korea and Grenada.

Earlier in the day, in a speech before the World Affairs Council of Northern California, Gates said the Soviet Union has spent nearly \$150 billion on strategic defense during the past 10 years, almost 15 times what the United States has spent.

Gates offered his remarks as an argument for continued research and development of the Strategic Defense Initiative system proposed by President Reagan.